THE HISTORY OF THOMAS MOULTON

(As given by Dorothy Eggleston at the Moulton Reunion in 1951)

William Moulton, my great great grandfather was born in Irchester North Hamptonshire, England about 1781. At the age of 22 he married Sarah Horne. To them were born three sons; James, Joh, and Thomas, our ancestor. William Moulton died at the age of 31 leaving his wife and three small boys--James, 6, John, 4, and Thomas, my great grand father, just 2 years old. James, the eldest son, died in his sixteenth year in England. John married Elizabeth Draper, came to Utah, and died in Payson in 1882.

Thomas Moulton was born in 1810 at Irchester, England. When he was 22 years old he married Esther Marsh, a young woman eight years his senior. They had two daughters, Susan, born in 1834 who died two years later, and Sarah, born March 5, 1837.

On February 25, 1839, Esther Marsh Moulton died, leaving her husband and two year old daughter, Sarah. A year later, in April, 1840, Thomas Moulton married his second wife, Sarah Denton, who was born June 5, 1818, at Rushdown, Northhamptonshire, England. She was the daughter of CharlesDenton and Charlotte Bassfield.

By 1838 several branches of the church had been organized in England. The missionaries were making many converts to the church. Thomas Moulton and his wife had become interested in the Latter Day Saint teachings and were baptized in Dec. 29, 1841.

It seemes that immediately the ambition of the converts was to emigrate to America and to come to Utah where they could be with the majority of the saints. Immigrations to Utah were facilitated by the orginization in 1849 of what was known as the Perpetual Emigration Fund, consisting of 5,000 dollars which was to be lent to the needy Saints, both on the frontier and in England. The first pioneers to enter the Salt Lake valley had come by wagon train, but this means of transportation was expensive. By 1856 there were at least 30,000 in England who were waiting for the opportunity to emigrate. With a view to reducing the expense of crossing the plains, Pres. Young, in 1856 concieved the idea of making the journey withhand carts. Already by June of that year three different companies hadleft Iowa City and walked pulling or pusting their hand carts the entire distance, and had reached Salt Lake City in fairly good condition. Two other companies followed.

As I have already mentioned, the Thomas Moulton family had been baptized in December, 1841. However, it was not until 1856 that they were able to emigrate. In the meantime their first six children were born in Irchester, England. The name of the children were Mary Ann, William Denton, Joseph, my grandfather, James Heber, Charlotte and Sofia Elizabeth. There are now seven children, including Sarah, and father and mother at the time of the emigration.

In England, Thomas Moulton was a farm laborer, andthe undertaking of preparation for emigration of a family of nine with a new member momentarily was no small task. Sarah, his oldest daughter by Ester Marsh, wasnow a young lady of nineteen. His other six children by Sarah Denton ranged in age from three to fifteen.

As the Journey was to be a long one, they could take with them only wat clothing and supplies were absolitely necessary. Some of the children had just recovered from a light case of smallpox. One of the girls, though fully recovered, had noticeable pox marks on her hands. Hoping to avoid postponement in their plans, the mother made some mitts for the girl. With a prayer in her heart that they all would pass the health inspection, they made preparations for the voyage.

Sarah Moulton's prayers were answered. On May 3, 1856, the Moulton family [illegible] "Thornton" from Liverpool, England, with 747

family set sail on the ship, "Thornton" from Liverpool, England, with 7 souls on board.

While crossing the Irish Sea, Sarah Denton gave birth to her seventh child, Charles Alma, who when a grown man often jokingly remarked that he was a man born at sea without country or nationality. The sea voyage was not without its problems. A fire on board ship destroyed much of the food supply andthe apassengers were reduced to a rationed diet of sea biscuit and rice. After six weeks trip by water, the family consisting of ten members, arrived in New York Harber, June 14, 1856 and embarked by railroad for Winter Quarters later leaving Iowa City where they arrived June 26.

Upon their arrival in Iowa City they found the hand carts were not ready which caused a three weeks delay. Two hundred anf fifty hand carts had to be made. Many of them were out of green, unseasoned lumber and were unable to stand the strenuous test they were subjected to and several had to be abandoned on the plains.

The Thomas Moulton family was assigned to the James G. Willey Handcart Company which was composed of 500 sain s, inculding more than the usual number of aged. With them were three cows, a wagon, and three yoke of oxen for each 100 travelers. There was a tent for every 20, and a handcart for every five. On July 15 they bad farewell to camp Iowa and began their thirteen hundred mile Journey west, little knowing what the futre held in store for them. The family had to leave a trunk of clothing in New York and a trunk of supplies in Iowa because of their inability to transport them.

The first two hundred miles of their journey was over beautiful, grassy plains, with flowers and wild fruits and with plenty of fish in the streams.

When they reached Florence, Nebraska, it was necessary to repair many of the carts. Some couldn't be repaired and had to be left by the wayside. The travelers were becoming tired and weary andunable to push or pull the heavily loaded carts. All unnecessary things were discarded. The wagons and cattle were taken by the Indians, and provisions were becoming so low that food had to be rationed. Many became ill and the deaths increased daily. Along with these other difficulties, winter set in early and men, and children were forced to wade through freezing streams, and to sleep in open with insufficient bedding. Through deep snows, piercing winds and in freezing temperatures the company struggled on. Sixty-six of their number died--fourteen of them being buried in a shallow common grave.

Some Mormon missionaries returning from England, overtook and passed the company and reported itsplight to the church presidency in Salt Lake City. Immediately rescue parties were sent out carring wagon loads of provisions, clothing, and bedding.

The Moulton family arrived in Salt Lake City, November 9, 1856, without losing one member of their family. However, their third son, Heber had had several fingers on his left hand frozen so badly that they had to be amputated when they reached Salt Lake.

On December 5, 1856, their oldest daughter, Sarah, was married to John Bennett Hawkins, an established blacksmith who had been a member of the rescue party sent out by President Young. They made their home in Salt Lake City where they became a prosperous and influential family.

About this time the Thomas Moulton family moved to Provo where he worked as a farm laborer. Here their eighth child was born, Thomas Denton, on October 29, 1858. He died ten months later. Here also their daughter, Mary Ann, wasmarried to Fredrick Giles. She was the mother of Fredrick W., John T., and Sarah Giles Mahoney. They later moved to Heber where she died at the age of 28.

In 1860 the Moulton family moved from Provo to Heber. As the settlers were having trouble with the Indians, they took refuge in the log fort that was built in 1859 and 60. This fort was located in the northwest part of town, starting on First West and Second North(at the Dewy Moulton

me), and running north to Fifth North and west to Third West. It accommodated protection to sixty-six families whose cabins were built around the inside walls of the fort.

On September 16, 1860, their ninth child, John E. Was born and three years later, the tenth and last, George Frankling

After moving from the fort, Thomas Moulton built the rick home now owned by Maud Witt Campbell on 2nd North and 2nd West. He and his wife were both systematic and methodical in their work and planning. They did their share in helping pioneer the Heber Valley.

Before leaving England Thomas Moulton felt a little hesitant about undertaking such a long and strenuous journey. His wife went to see one of the brethern who gave her a blessing. He promised her that she would make the journey safely without the loss of one member of her family. Although their trials were sever and the baby, Charles, was reduced to a near skeleton, these children all grew to maturity, married, and rearred families.

Sarah Denton Moulton died in 1888 at Heber and her husband, Thomas in 1892

Their son, William Denton, married Mary L. Lee and Mary Ann Davis. He built built two homes, one in Heber, and one on the ranch near the present Keetley. For years he supplied the mines in Park City with milk, butter, meat and produce. He was the fatherof nine children and died at the age of forty.

Joseph Moulton married Mary Elizabeth Giles, Annie K. Jensen, and Jensine M. Jensen. With the exception of a year spent in Old Mexico, he lived most of his life in Heber. He was a farmer and stock raiser, had twenty-three children, and died here in his eighty ninth year.

James Heber married Euphemia Carroll. He made his home in Heber where he farmed and was also tithing office clerk for many years. After the death of his wife, he married her sister Emily Carroll Bentley. As most of his children were grown adn married, he moved to Salt Lake where he enjoyed working in the temple. He died in 1934.

Charlotte married a school teacher, Willard Carroll. After living in Heber for eight years, they moved to Orderville. From there they moved to Old Mexico where most of their children were born. After her Husband's death she returned to Blanding where she made her home. She did a great deal of temple work and died in 1940, the last of the Moulton's original family.

Sofia Elizabeth married Addison Wicken. They were called on a mission to Arizona. After their return to Heber she spent many years serving in responsible positions in the wards and stake. She worked for years doing temple work anddied in 1933 at the age of eighty.

Charles married Rhoda Duke. They moved to Victor, Idaho where he engaged infarming and stock raising. He died there in his seventy-fifth year.

Thomas Denton was born in Provo in 1858 and died a year later.

John E. Moulton, also a farmer, married Isabella Thacker. He was active in church and civic affairs and died at the age of 55.

George Franklin married Ada Cluff. They had seven children and lived in Victor, Idaho for a number of years. They later returned to Utah and he died at Bingham Hospital in 1933 in his seventieth year.

The sons and daughters of Thomas and Sarah Denton Moulton have given their services freely in the communities in which they have lived. As Heber was their home, they are still well represented here by their posterity.

(Compiled by Violet Moulton Holdaway from material obtained from Henry Moulton Nellie Earl, Katie Duke, Josie Todd, church records, family records, and newspaper clippings.)